

PATENT CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for producing a printing plate for intaglio printing, characterized in that depressions and/or lines are introduced into a base body made of a brass alloy and/or having an outer layer made of a brass alloy using a laser.
2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that melt burrs are removed after the introduction of the depressions and/or lines.
3. The method according to claim 2, characterized in that the melt burrs are removed using a chemical posttreatment, particularly an acid bath, an electrolytic bath, or the like.
4. The method according to claim 3, characterized in that the acid bath comprises acetic acid, phosphoric acid, and nitric acid, particularly approximately 40 volume-percent acetic acid, 50 volume-percent phosphoric acid, and 10 volume-percent nitric acid.
5. The method according to claim 1, 2, 3, or 4, characterized in that the depths of each of the depressions and/or lines and/or for a group of depressions and/or lines are predefined independently of one another.
6. The method according to one of claims 1 through 5, characterized in that a flat plate is used as the base body.
7. The method according to claim 6, characterized in that the laser is attached to a slide element which is movable in at least two different directions that are essentially parallel to the flat plate.

8. The method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the base body is chromed in a further method step.
9. The method according to one of claims 1 through 8, characterized in that the emission of laser pulses is monitored by a control device.
10. A printing plate for intaglio printing, characterized in that it comprises a base body made of a brass alloy and/or having an outer layer made of a brass alloy.
11. The printing plate according to claim 10, characterized in that it has depressions and/or lines of different depths, the depths of the depressions and/or lines being independent of the width of the depressions and/or lines.
12. The printing plate according to one of claims 10 through 11, characterized in that the Vickers hardness of the brass alloy is greater than 140.